



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
August 6, 2020



General Information

DHS Provider Meetings are still held once per week on Thursdays.

Please submit stories and photos of how your agency has changed to address the needs emerging during this time to Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US.

If a member of your staff has tested positive for COVID-19, including presumptive positive, or has been exposed to a confirmed case, please continue to notify DHS by emailing DHS-PrivacyOfficer@alleghenycounty.us (preferred method). Alternatively, you may report via phone to Brian Bell, Allegheny County Privacy Officer, at 412-350-2887.

As a reminder, the Port Authority is launching online public meetings for NEXTransit. This is the first series of public and community meetings to gather input on the future of public transit in the Pittsburgh area. There is a survey available to take and public meetings are being held on August 25th. Visit nextransit.network to learn more.

Needs Based Plan and Budget Update

- The Office of Children, Youth and Families is partnering with Juvenile Probation to prepare our Needs Based Plan and Budget for FY 21-22.
- Here is how you can share your input:
 - Read the [draft plan](#).
 - Watch a video of the [Public Meeting recording](#) (held yesterday, 8/5).
 - Visit [Neighborland](#) to share your input.

Poll workers are needed and we encourage you to apply. To learn more and apply, visit [Poll worker application](#) and watch the [Become a Poll Worker](#) video.

Check out and share these voter resources:

- Allegheny County Elections Division E-newsletter: [Sign-up](#) to receive information on preparations for the November general election.
- [Overview of vote by mail process in Allegheny County](#).
- [Register to vote](#).
- [Check voter registration status](#).
- [Absentee Ballot Application](#): The last day to apply for an absentee ballot for the November 3, 2020 election is October 27th. The application must be received in the Elections office by that date.

DHS Procurement Manager Kelly Prokop joined the call to remind us about cleaning services for congregate care providers.

- DHS has entered into a contract with ServiceMaster and set up a process for DHS-contracted congregate care providers and DHS staff to request cleaning services after a known COVID-19 incident.
- Congregate care providers can [request services through this form](#) after someone was present in the building who meets the following criteria:

- Person has a confirmed positive case of COVID-19.
- Person has been exposed to COVID-19 AND is showing symptoms.

The following solicitations are active on the DHS Solicitations Page:

- Request for Comments on Foster Care Concept Paper
 - Submit comments by August 14
- RFP for Trauma-Informed Care Training and Consultation
 - Proposals due August 21
- RFQ for Forensic Psychological and/or Psychiatric Evaluators
 - Proposals due Sept 1 (RFQ is ongoing; proposals due Sept 1 and March 1)
- RFP for Inpatient Program for Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
 - Proposals due September 16
- All are available on the [DHS Solicitations Page](#), along with a form you can use to sign up to receive email notifications when we post new solicitations.

COVID-19 Metrics

Allegheny County is not meeting the following benchmarks:

- New cases below threshold: Our rate is 145 per 100,000 residents, still above 50, but decreasing.
- Diagnostic testing capacity: Our tests to cases ratio is at 16, well below the recommendation of 50.
- Decline in hospitalizations: We have seen an increase in hospitalizations with 139 average daily hospitalizations in the previous week.

Allegheny County is approaching the following benchmarks:

- Decline in new cases: We are seeing week over week declines.

Allegheny County is meeting the following benchmarks:

- Decline in deaths: They remain relatively low
- Rate of transmission below 1: It was 0.78 during the week of 7/27 and is declining.
- Percent of positive tests: It is now 6.7%.
- ICU bed availability: This appears relatively flat.

We are continuing to improve our website, located at www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders.

- [The Operational Changes Tracker](#) is live.
- You can reach us by email at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us. We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.

Legislative/Policy Updates

Federal Updates

- The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives continue negotiations on a 5th stimulus bill and are hoping for a breakthrough this evening or tomorrow.
 - We'll continue to track and report on details as they firm up.

Food

There are three [upcoming Food Bank food distributions](#):

1. 8/10, 5 pm, Duquesne, at the Food Bank, 1 N Linden St
2. 8/11, 5 pm, Allegheny Valley, Pittsburgh Mills Galleria
3. 8/15, 10 am, McKeesport, 1960 Eden Park Blvd

Program Updates

OCS

- Many people did not receive their stimulus payments. Allegheny Link can help folks apply: call 866-730-2368.
- PPS is holding computer device exchanges. Families that received devices in the previous school year will need to swap them out to participate in remote schoolwork this year. They are holding grade-by-grade distributions. Please refer to the slide presentation for dates and locations.
 - PPS is urging families that have a personal device at home to use that device.
 - Please help us get the word out about this!
- We are partnering with Trying Together and United Way to establish Community Learning Hubs. Funding is available to support in-person and virtual learning hubs to help facilitate remote schooling. [Applications, due 8/14, can be found here.](#)

OBH

- Here are some resources to help the helpers:
 - Free COVID Frontline Support Groups
 - [For Physicians](#)
 - [For Nurses](#)
 - [Free Webinar for Supporting Staff from Mental Health America](#)

CYF

- September is Black Girls Equity Month
 - Gwen's Girls and the Black Girls Equity Alliance are seeking to highlight Black girls and young women who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and advocacy skills, especially related to social justice. Please click [HERE](#) to complete the form to nominate a young person up to age 24 years old. All responses are due by August 14, 2020.
- In our Needs Based Plan and Budget Public Meeting last night, we shared CYF's challenges, including:
 - Meeting the County's need for prevention services
 - Building a foster care system that improves outcomes for children and families
 - Reducing systemic racial inequities
- Please visit [Neighborland](#) to share your input: What do children and families in your community need most right now?

How to Reach Us

- Email us at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us with questions. Use the subject line to indicate the type of question you are submitting (e.g., program area, DHS operations).
- The COVID Hotline is 2-1-1 and the Health Department's line is 412-687-2243.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

**SEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED AT
TODAY'S CALL**